[Translation]

Uniform Power Tariff

781. SHRI D.P. YADAV :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have proposed to rationalise electricity tariff structure all over the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter;

(c) the specific steps taken to improve the deteriorating financial health of the State Electricity Boards;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to curtail the annual plan funds of Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) :(a) to (c) The Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power, finalised in the Chief Ministers' Conference on Power, held on 16th October, 1996 and 3rd December, 1996, inter-alia, recommends for establishment of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERC) in each State/UT for determination of retail tariffs, cross-subsidisation between categories of consumers subject to no sector paying less than 50% of the average cost of supply, agriculture tariff not being less than 50 paise per kwh to be brought to 50% of the average cost in not more than 3 years, recommendations of SERCs being mandatory, and any deviation from tariff recommended by it, the State Governments/UTs to provide for the financial implications of such deviations in the State/UT budget and a package of incentive and disincentives to encourage and facilitate the implementation of tariff rationalisation by the States. Further, the Action Plan also recommends autonomy to the State Electricity Boards, restructuring and Corporatisation of SEBs to run on commercial basis, improvement in the management practices of State Electricity Boards, and improvement of physical parameters etc. to improve the deteriorating financial health of the State Electricity Boards.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Investment on Research and Development

782. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount invested on Research and Development in the country by the Public and Private Sector separately;

(b) the percentage of the amount invested in industrial sector for Research and Development out of the total amount invested and its comparision with other developing countries; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for increasing amount of investment on Research and Development in the Industrial Sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) According to data reported to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the total amount invested on Research and Development in the country by the Government recognised in-house R&D units in the Public and Private Sectors together is around Rs.1575 crores during 1995-96; expenditure incurred by the Public Sector units is around Rs.550 crores and rest is by the Private Sector units.

(b) The percentage of the amount invested in Industrial Sector for Research and Development out of the total amount invested for Research and Development in the country is around 26% as compared to 5% to 30% in other developing countries.

(c) Government have, from time to time, evolved fiscal incentives and support measures to encourage industry to increase investments in Research and Development.

Indian Oil Corporation Investment

783. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has planned to invest about 500 crores in port infrastructure in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of ports where such infrastructure is proposed to be created by the IOC and approved by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited has planned to take up infrastructure development of priority areas to meet the demand for petroleum products in the Ninth Plan. This activity covers development of terminals/depots pipelines

at inland locations as well as at port locations at an approximate cost of Rs.1800 crores.

Flaring of Gas

784. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge quantity of gas is still being flared up;

(b) if so, the quantity of gas thus flared during each of the last three years;

(c) the reasons why this gas is not utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The current rate of flaring of gas is around 3.6 MMSCMD.

(b) The flaring in the last three years was as below:

	MMSCMD
1993-94	5.27
1994-95	5.53
1995-96	3.81

(c) Flaring of gas is due to technical requirements of field operation, lack of infrastructural facility, fluctuations in offtake by consumers, availability of gas at isolated structures etc.

[Translation]

Demand of LPG

785. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the projected demand of LPG, Kerosene Petrol and Petroleum products in Bihar and the details of public undertakings to meet the demand;

(b) whether Oil Selection Board has been formed in Bihar to give final shape to the selection of new dealership for the current year; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The demand projection of petroleum products is carried out on All-India basis. Thus, product-wise demand projections of petroleum products for the State of Bihar are not maintained. The demand for LPG from the customers enrolled with Public Sector Oil Companies is met by and large in full. Kerosene is an allocated product and the allocation for the State of Bihar for 1996-97 is 647512 Mts. For MS/HSD, the market demand is being met in full.

(b) New Oil Selection Board for Bihar has not been formed.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Production of Crude Oil

786. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount disbursed on loans and grants by Oil Industry Development Board to various Public Sector Oil Companies during 1996-97, company-wise and activity-wise;

(b) the mechanism to ensure that the amount disbursed is utilised for the intended purpose;

(c) the total amount of the loans and grants given to various oil companies for the exploration and production of crude oil during the last three years;

(d) whether OIDB has given loans for capital expenditure and working capital to the Public Sector Oil Companies during the last three years; and

(e) if so, the name of the companies and the amount of loan to each company; and

(f) the total loan amount outstanding to each company at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The details are given in the Statement–I enclosed.

(b) the OIDB ensures utilisation of funds by obtaining the yearly utilisation certificate and audited Statements duly authenticated by Audit. Besides, a brief on the utilisation of funds is also called for from the loanee at the end of each financial year.

(c) Details are given in the Statement - II enclosed.

(d) Yes.

(e) The information is given in the Statement - III enclosed.

(f) The details are given in the Statement - IV enclosed.